

**Methods and Compositions for Cloning  
Nucleic Acid Molecules**

**ABSTRACT**

5 The present invention is directed generally to methods facilitating the  
cloning of nucleic acid molecules. In particular, the invention relates to the use  
of polymerase inhibitors, including but not limited to anti-polymerase antibodies  
(such as anti-*Taq* antibodies) and fragments thereof, to inactivate residual  
10 polymerase activity remaining after the amplification (particularly via PCR) of a  
target nucleic acid molecule. The invention further provides compositions,  
particularly storage-stable compositions, comprising one or more components,  
such as one or more restriction endonucleases and one or more polymerase  
inhibitors, that are useful in cloning amplified or synthesized nucleic acid  
15 molecules by the above-described methods. The invention also relates to nucleic  
acid molecules produced by these methods, and to genetic constructs (such as  
vectors) and host cells comprising these nucleic acid molecules.

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